

Arnett got his men out of Marlins Bottom by the skin of his teeth as it was. He sent a horse soldier (cavalryman) to tell Captain Marshall at Edray that he was going to barricade the road on Price Hill, and for him to march the back way and come to the road on top of Price Hill. Arnett cut a lot of trees across the Price Hill road and dug some of the road away on that sliding hillside. The exciting days for this county were Wednesday, Nov. 4, Thursday Nov. 5th; and Friday Nov. 6, 1863. Then it was that the biggest battle ever fought in Pocahontas occurred. Arnett left Marlins Bottom at sun down on Wednesday and Col. Ohley moved into his deserted log cabins at dusk.

There was only one road between Marlins Bottom and Mill Point, and Averill with his army at Huntersville had laid a plan to capture Arnett's forces by sending Ohley down the pike to get Arnett started south while Col. Harris moved his forces down Beaver Creek to get ahead of him and block the road at Marvin Chapel where the two roads unite. This plan would have succeeded but for Col. W. P. Thompson who had been recalled from Cold Knob with his cavalry and was unsaddling at his old camp on the John S. Kellison farm when Jackson's courier rode up and told him to hold the Beaver Creek road. Thompson immediately went to Beaver Creek, and spent the evening cutting trees across the road. He fell back firing as he went. This delayed the Federal Army to such an extent that Arnett got by.

On this expedition, Averill had with him some signal experts. It was arranged that the main corps would stay at Huntersville, while others went on to Marvin Chapel where they were to send up rockets to communicate the position and success of Col. Harris and his troops.

Merritt went to the top of the hill at Huntersville to observe the signals and Berniske went on with troops to report. It was arranged that the rockets were to be sent up at 8 P. M. and Merritt waited on top of the knob until 10 P. M. and seeing no rockets he went back to headquarters. It afterwards appeared that Berniske was not able to send up his rockets until 11 P. M. and they were not observed at Huntersville though the Confederates saw them red against the sky. They

were a sort of a new departure in mountain warfare. Thompson and his blockading tactics had interfered with the march so much that the army was three hours late.

Thursday Nov. 5, 1863, was Mill Point day. Mill Point has never been given the credit for the baptism by fire that she had that day because what occurred next day at Droop Mountain, five miles south, has overshadowed it to such a great extent.

There was enough powder burned that day at Mill Point to fight a great battle. The Federal armies were at Stephen Hale Run and on the hill between that run and Mill Point. The Confederates formed a battle line along the banks of Stamping Creek for a mile or more, and their artillery was on the hill just south of Mill Point. When then guns began to thunder it occurred to Jackson that his battle line was just the right distance from the Federal batteries to be in range of grape shot and he withdrew his army by having them slip silently up the stream until they were hid by the bend of the mountain, and he took them out by the flint pits near Tom Beards. Having gotten his troops under way, he looked up to the long smooth summit of Droop Mountain and decided to take his stand there. By nightfall he was in camp on the crest looking down on the Federal army as they kindled their fires in the broad fields of the Little Levels.

On that Thursday the Federal troops at Marlins Bottom got word to cut out the blockade and move on to Mill Point. Before they left, they burned the log cabins the Confederates had planned to winter in.

On that Thursday, too, General Echols at Lewisburg heard that Gen. Duffie with an army was covering him from Gauley Bridge, and Averill was coming from Beverly, so he got busy. He sent a regiment west on the Midland Trail to hold Duffie. He moved the remainder of his army to Pocahontas. That day he marched his men fourteen miles and went into camp at Spring Creek. The arrangements were to reinforce Jackson who was to fall back until Echols could join him. That night, message was received by Echols that the Federal army was much larger than they had thought at first, and that there would be a battle next day on top of Droop Mountain.

This was no night to sleep. Echols got his forces under way at two o'clock and reached Droop Mountain at nine o'clock that same morning. This was a record march.

36 miles over mountain roads. But when they came back that same night they made it in eleven hours. These mountain men marched 56 miles in 42 hours, and had wasted 7 hours fighting a battle. They never even hesitated when they reached Lewisburg for Duffie was due there that morning.

On Friday morning Nov. 6, 1863 Echols, Arnett and Marshall also Jackson and Thompson, Echols commanding, with an army of around 5000 soldiers were encamped at the foot of the mountain. He was in plain sight of the Confederates on the mountain and it was impossible to march up the mountain and attack from the front without being seen. Therefore, he sent Col. Augustus Moore, of the 28th Ohio Regiment, and Col. T. M. Harris, of the 10th West Virginia, to make a flanking movement and attack the Confederates from the rear. Averill made gestures of attack from the front while Moore and Harris with about 1000 soldiers went over the mountain and through the woods to attack in the rear.

Most of us have grown up with the idea that the Confederates neglected to guard their left flank and that they were taken by surprise, but a study of the official dispatches on both sides do not bear out that theory. It seems that no less than four detachments were sent against this attack and that they fought a long and bloody battle for about a mile through the thick forest and underbrush on top of the mountain. And what is more, instead of being surprised by the flanking movement, a Confederate soldier fired the first shot. This soldier said, "We were lying in the woods watching for the Federals to advance and the first we saw of them was when a soldier showed his head over a rail fence. This was the first soldier killed at the battle of Droop Mountain.

Moore says that "the Confederates raised at this fence and poured a devastating fire into his men. This was the critical moment, had his men broken at this surprise the battle would have been lost. The men were commanded to lie down, and in a few minutes Col. Harris's regiment joined him and they went forward fighting every inch of the way, arriving at last at the cleared hill where the rebel artillery was."



The battle hung in the balance as the fight went on in the west of the woods. The Confederate commander Echols knew of the importance of that movement. He sent Capt. Marshall's forces in there first. It was reinforced by Col. Thompson and some more companies of the same regiment. Then the 23rd Virginia Battalion was ordered into the woods on the extreme left to support Thompson. Then Col. Gibson with four companies of the 14th Virginia Cavalry (Cochran's regiment) were ordered into the woods where the fighting was heaviest. And finally a picked body of troops from three companies of the 22nd, including Capt. James McNeill's Nicholas Blues, were placed under Capt. John L. Thompson and they plunged into the fatal woods and by a desperate charge actually stopped the advance but the next wave went over them.

Averill marched up the mountain from the front when he detected the fighting in the rear. When his men reached the top of the mountain the Confederate forces broke and ran. The Federals fought a stern chase battle with them for hours.

Those who have made a study of troop movements which culminated in the Battle of Droop Mountain say that General Echols had no time to stay and fight it out with Averill when he knew another Union army was coming to cut off his rear by way of Lewisburg. He was in a trap and it was up to him to get his army out before it could be sprung.

It was a far more reaching victory than the Richmond government was willing to admit, for it was the last stand in a way that the Confederates made in West Virginia. The retreat took them well down to Dublin, and no rebel army was assembled here after that time. This was the turning point of the war so far as the mountains were concerned.

It was fought by troops from the two Virginias with one regiment each from Ohio and Pennsylvania. It broke the power of the Confederates and determined the control of the western part of Virginia.

Gen. Echols reported that the only trophy the Federals could boast of was the capture of a brass cannon. This cannon was a twelve pound howitzer or sling and was the pride of the Confederate army, but it had been injured in a battle at White

Sulphur Springs the summer before, and since it could not be used it was buried and a log rolled over the place to hide it. So far as is known this cannon was never found, though it is believed to be buried on the McCoy land.

Captain John Johnson lost an eye in this battle. It was his third wound. He was mentioned in the dispatches for his bravery and courage. He said that it was the hottest fire he ever experiences. Captain Marshall and Captain Hutton, also Lieut. John G. Beard of Pocahontas County received honorable mention in the dispatches.

As the Federal army returned over the Seneca Trail to Beverly they were fired upon by a troop of about 60 confederate soldiers near the top of Elk Mountain. Bushwhackers these soldiers were called. (Prices History of Pocahontas).

It was here that Colonel Cochran of Virginia made his famous escape. He was apparently in the power of a squad of Union soldiers. When asked why he did not surrender he said, "If they had said, "Col. surrender!" I would have done so; but they yelled, "Stop you -----red headed son of a gun!" and I would not accommodate anyone who would use such language to me.

Averell's full name was

William Woods Averill

I've found his name spelled Averil, and Averell, but I believe Averill is correct.

This material was taken from 1928 W. Va. Blue Book. History of Pocahontas,

Pocahontas Times Nov. 14, 1935.

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## THE BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN.

*Rolla F. J. [unclear]*

The battle of Droop Mountain was fought on the 6th day of November, 1863. The confederate forces consisted of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Colonel George Patton (of Kanawha County, afterward killed at Winchester), Commanding; the 19th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. P. Thompson Commanding; the 20th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. W. Arnott Commanding; the 14th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel James Cochran, Commanding; Jackson's and Chapman's Batteries, and Edgar's and Derrick's Battallions. The entire force was under command of General John Echols. This force, on the first day of the month, was lying at Meadow Bluff, in Greenbrier County.

The federal force was composed of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, 23rd and 24th Ohio Infantry, the 5th, 6th, and 10th, West Virginia Infantry, and one battery of Artillery. This force had been stationed at Beverly in Randolph County. The federal force was under command of General W. W. Averell.

The movement of the two armies preceding this battle have been traced by competent authority to have been as follows: In the first week in November, 1863, General Averell ordered General Duffie to meet him at 2 p. m., November 7th, at Lewisburg, and Duffie marched from Kanawha, 120 miles. Averell marched from Beverly and had 110 miles to go. Averell reached Lewisburg on Saturday November 7th, at 2 p. m., and found that Duffie had got there at 10 a. m.

Averell left Beverly on Sunday and came over Cheat mountain by way of Cheat Bridge and marched by Camp Bartow, where they left the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike and took the road leading by Greenbank to Huntersville.

They reached Huntersville on Wednesday at noon, and there Averell heard that Colonel W. P. Thompson, with the 19th Virginia Cavalry, was at Marlinton, at the Greenbrier Bridge. Averell sent the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry and the 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry down Beaver Creek to ford the river eight miles below south of Marlinton to cut off Thompson at Stephen Hole Run on the Marlin-Lewisburg Turnpike, and sent the 2nd and 8th West Virginia mounted infantry to Marlinton with Ewing's Battery. Thompson, apprehending his danger, left in a hurry and cut a barricade of trees across the pike on Price Hill, a mile or so distant from the bridge, and beat the federal forces to the pike at Stephen Hole Run and joined up with the confederate troops in the Levels and there turned and stopped the advance. There was some cannon firing that day across the valley of Stamping Creek at Mill Point. Averell, at Huntersville, got word in the night time from his command at Marlinton and from Stephen Hole Run, that Thompson had escaped the trap.

Averell moved his Huntersville army down Beaver Creek, Thursday, starting at 3 a. m. and reaching Mill Point at 8 a. m. He had ordered the Colonel in charge of the Marlinton army to cut out the barricade on Price Hill and join him at Mill Point, and both wings of the army arrived at Mill Point at the same time. The effect of this was to put the Confederates in motion and they retired from the plains around Hillsboro to the heights overlooking that town, and erected embankments and fortifications on the brow of the mountain overlooking the Levels where the pike tops the mountain going south.

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the 14th Virginia Cavalry, and Edgar's and Derrick's Batteries, and Chapman's Batteries, and General John Echols. This force, on the first day of the month, was lying at Meadow Bluff, in Greenbrier County.

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Averell says that the reason he did not attack on Thursday, when he came upon the Confederates in the Levels was that he was thirty four miles from Lewisburg and that if he drove his enemy forward that day they would get by Lewisburg before Ewing Duffie would have arrived from Kanawha.

On Thursday then about all that was done was to try to go around the Confederates and cut them off from the mountain, but Jackson beat them to it and left the Levels to be occupied by Averell.

Averell got his troops into position before daylight the next morning. He sent the 14th Pennsylvania to the left and they took up their position near the Lost Creek bridge and appeared to be ready to charge up the mountain. Ewing's Battery was placed on the high ground above the



G. C. & GEORGIA A. BEARD.

Note dated April 6th, 1934, for \$10,000.00, due August 6th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 16th, 1924, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	\$10,000.00
Interest from 8-6-1934 to 1-1-1935	<u>241.64</u>
Total	\$10,241.64

Your Commissioner reports that the liens of the Bank of Marlinton and G. C. and Georgia A. Beard are of equal dignity, both being secured by the same deed of trust, the Rockbridge National Bank of Lexington, Virginia, having assigned its lien by virtue of said deed of trust to G. C. and Georgia A. Beard.

LIENS OF THE THIRD CLASS.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK OF MARLINTON.

Note dated April 14th, 1934, for \$5,360.00, with a credit of \$80.00, due July 14th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 15th, 1926, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	\$5,300.00
Interest from 7-14-1934 to 1-1-1935	<u>148.10</u>
Total	

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LIENS OF THE THIRD CLASS.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK OF MARLINTON.

Note dated April 14th, 1934, for \$5,360.00, with a credit of \$60.00, due July 14th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 15th, 1926, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	\$5,300.00
Interest from 7-14-1934 to 1-1-1935	<u>148.10</u>
Total	\$5,448.10

LIENS OF THE FOURTH CLASS.

H. KILGUSON.

and commenced to fire on the batteries on top of the mountain. The Battery was placed on the left of the pike between Hillsboro and the foot of Droop Mountain. Gibson's Battallion and the 10th West Virginia were held in or near Hillsboro on the pike. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th, West Virginia Regiments were placed to the right of the pike about the Renick place, out of sight of the Confederates on top of the mountain. The 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and one company of the 14th, Pennsylvania, in all 1175 men, were sent by the long nine mile detour to the right by Lobelia, and while they started long before daylight they did not reach the battle field until 1:45 p. m. In the meantime a great deal of cannon firing had been going on.

About nine o'clock, the Confederates announced by cheers and by band music, and by the display of flags, that Major General Echols had brought his army up. This must have caused Averell some apprehension considering the position he held with the Confederates holding the mountain top. He had not attacked the day before for good and sufficient reason. We shall see later how he won on this day with the odds against him.

The Confederate line of position was as follows: Edgar's Battalion on the river road to Greenbrier. On the farmland on the brow of the mountain where the battle was fought was the 22nd Virginia Cavalry; 19th Virginia Cavalry; 20th Virginia Cavalry; 14th Virginia Cavalry; Derrick's Battalion; Jackson's Batteries. On the Lobelia-Jacox road: Nobody. The failure to guard the road leading in from the rear costs the Confederates the battle. At 1:45 p. m., the flanking party arrived and came through the woods firing as they came. It is said to have been one of the most sudden and most fearful fires that men were ever subject to. In about an hour, the Confederates were in full flight.

#### ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

As soon as Averell heard his flanking party commence to fire, he moved the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th regiments obliquely to the right up the mountain. The horses had been left at the foot of the mountain. They came out on top of the mountain exactly on the left of the flanking army. After they advanced on the breastworks of the Confederates and the fight was over in a few minutes, and the Confederate army in full retreat. The losses on both sides was heavy.





June 17, 1840

Nelle Y. McLaughlin  
Charlinton, W. Va.

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Chapter 4 - Section 4 - Incidents in Battle of Droop Mountain.

The Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission has tried to mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the markers which they have planted and the maps which they have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Col. Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Batallion was in front of the 26th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in a report, "just in the nick of time", turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a fence into the ranks of the 10th West Vir-

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ginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied but ran up and kicked two or three rails off the fence and they both jumped over and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. K. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. George J. Morrison, Silas Carr and M. D. Shaver were the next of Company F to cross the rail fence. This occurred near the close of the battle. No braver man than J. D. Baxter ever espoused a cause or went to war. A few minutes later Major Bailey of the 22nd Virginia was mortally wounded, while trying to rally his men to make another stand. He was an officer and soldier of daring and courage.

Two most pathetic scenes occurred at that battle: After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded, and among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry.



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They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded soldiers. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that he was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for someone to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light, he found for a certainty that it was his brother.

After the battle a young woman was observed going among the dead looking intently into the faces of each dead Confederate soldier. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George". She was the guest at the home of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davisson of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Colonel Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordnance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he should do with the wagon train, and Jackson said, "Damned if I know". Sisler said that he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the team of General Echols' ordnance

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wagon became frightened, and whistled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after, the war, people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Hamilton Riggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for the story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain, he passed to a section so rough that he had dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said, "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

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Prior to the Battle of Droop Mountain there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley, which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, a distance of about one hundred seventy miles, and which protected Virginia from attacks from the west. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate forces, General Averell was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia, to Lewisburg and it was while on the march that he met the enemy

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at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought on the 6th day of November, 1863, between the forces commanded by General Averell, and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colones William L. Jackson.

At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on Nov. 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General WM. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th, by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force at Mill Point on the morning of the 5th, and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th Pa. Cav., 28th Ohio Inft., and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road six and one-half miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. One of these wounded died later, so if this battlefield covered nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven



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thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been, if the land had been cleared. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Virginia Inf. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va. Colonel \_\_\_\_\_ commanding, Kessler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Infantry. Some of these units have been twice named because as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left.

The forces engaged in the battle were composed of twelve Confederate units regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the most of the fighting was reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 500 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong.

With 100 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derrington's company, and Major Kessler's Battalion and other units formed a very strong fighting force. These units were con-

concentrated on the Confederate left and fought the 10th and 28th. So it was a battle royal by seasoned troops of approximately equal numbers.

What turned the tide of battle was the neglect of the Confederate General to fortify his position and protect his flank. Averell, an officer of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and turned the flank of the enemy with his infantry and gave them such a slight margin for their escape which caused much confusion.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the lake that protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Echols had fortified the back road over which the flanking units marched, and protected their lines by falling timber and temporary breast works on the mountain side, which they had abundant time to do, their position would have been impregnable. The mere height of a mountain is of but slight advantage to those defending it, if they are not protected by breast works. When the 10th West Va. Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being blocked by cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of lack of numbers on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of our soldiers, but a lack on the part of their commanders to defend the situation and take advantage of their position.

June 14, 1940

Nelle L. McLaughlin  
Marlinton, W. Va.

### POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Partial reports made by the leading officers who participated in the Battle of Droop Mountain.

#### General Averell's Report:

On the first day of November, I left Beverly with my command consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. A. Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. A. Scott; 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Col. J. H. Oley; 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B & G, First West Virginia Light Artillery, Capt. J. V. Keeper and C. T. Ewing.

On the morning of the 6th we approached the enemy's position. The infantry and one corps of cavalry was sent to the right to ascend a range of hills, with orders to attack the enemy's left and rear, the attack of our infantry, 1,175 strong was conducted skillfully by Col. Moor.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th, dismounted, were moved in line obliquely to the right, until their right was joined to Moor's left. Col. Moor says when he arrived in front of the enemy's position, at 1:45 P. M. he formed a line and ordered Col. Harris to move up in double quick, who arrived in the nick of time.

#### Lieut. Col. Scott's Report.

Lieut. Col. Alex. Scott, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, says that about 12 o'clock, having moved to the front, 'I was ordered to dismount my command and fight on foot, and



## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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was ordered to take a position between the third and eighth. At this time we found the 3rd, 8th and 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry in line of battle, with Jackson's force. The 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Infantry, immediately in front of the breast works".

I went into action with two hundred men; out of that number, there were nine killed, fourteen wounded, two mortally wounded, seven severely and five slightly.

### Report of Colonel John Oley

Eighth West Virginia Mounted Infantry. After taking my place with column on the morning of the 6th, I was ordered to clear the hills up to the foot of Droop Mountain of Skirmishers, and pickets. About 1 P. M. I was notified that the 2nd and 3rd Mounted Infantry would take a position on my right, and was ordered to assault the enemy's works in conjunction with them.

### Col. James N. Schoonmaker's Report

Col. James N. Schoonmaker, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry says that "On the morning of the 6th, I was ordered with my regiment and Keeper's Battery, to move to the extreme right of the enemy, who had again taken a position on the almost naturally fortified summit of Droop Mountain, and keep up a fire on their forces that their attention might be drawn from Col. Moor, who was to make an attack on their left. Knowing of the intended assault of Col. Moor, I immediately got my regiment reformed, and passed with two sections of artillery on the double

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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quick from the extreme right to the center."

Report of Major Thos Gibson, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

" On the 1st day of November, I moved with the Brigade and continued with it until the 5th day of November, on which day I marched to Cackleytown, by way of Marlin's Bottom, with the train".

The 10th West Virginia Infantry lost eight killed and twenty-seven wounded.

The 28th Ohio Infantry lost five killed and twenty-one wounded.

CONFEDERATE REPORTS.

Brig. General John Echols.

Gen. Echols says that he placed his forces at the crest of the mountain. The batteries of Chapman and Jackson under the command of Major W. McLaughlin, were placed near where Col. Jackson had placed two pieces of his battery under the command of Capt. Lurty.

Col. G. J. Patton was placed in command of the First Brigade, viz: the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Maj. R. A. Bailey; the 23rd Virginia Battalion, Major Am. Blessing commanding; then at the right of the turnpike road near the summit, and Maj. Bailey's 2nd Regiment in the rear of the Battery. At the same time, Colonel Thompson's 16th Virginia Cavalry was moved to the left with one hundred and seventy-five men and was

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-4-

shortly reinforced by six companies of the 23rd Battalion, later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach these companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain John K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded Echol's Brigade. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five hundred and fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 P. M.

Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion

" When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry.

Report of Colonel Thompson

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall,

*Re La F. Yeager*  
*From notes sent to*  
*her.*

*U.S. 219*  
*June 8*

BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN  
November 6, 1863

By Capt. E. R. Howery

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEDING BATTLE

Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Virginia  
Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, West Virginia  
Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain

Number of troops engaged (Union)-----4700  
Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950  
Number Killed (Union)-----130  
Number killed (Confederate)-----400

Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U. S. Army, and confederates troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C. S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was; The western part of Virginia was inhabited by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to break down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia. The Southern Troops were very successful. They occupied the West Virginia Valley with Headquarters at Lewisburg. The road from Lewisburg via Union to the Virginia border was the only available road to Virginia and Tennessee and had the Union troops who were located in the vicinity of Martinsburg and near Charleston separated. The Union was then the Confederate forces had to be drawn

out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 26th, Gen Benjamin Kelly, U. S. Army ordered General Averell, who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union, W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted gorilla bands and small detachments of Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, West Virginia, about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg, until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eivon's battery was placed to the left of the turnpike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va. Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.



The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turnpike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain. The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacox road and take the Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A. M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Co. Cochran; Dorricks Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with 6 companies of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacox road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P. M. November 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederates back toward Lewisburg. Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion--Cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederates and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment. Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that General Averell did not wish to push the Confederates

too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off. The Confederates retreated on through the night and passed through Lewisburg just as General Duffie entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

This battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

One very interesting part of General Echol's report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troop the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2598, CCC invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, and implements and other interesting things.

BEVERLY UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE.

By Thomas J. Arnold, Elkins, W. Va.

*History  
Randolph Co.*

An expedition that proved disastrous to the Confederates, and likewise for some who were not, was that connected with the occupation of Beverly, Va., now West Virginia, during the War between the States.

At the time of the Imboden raid through Western Virginia (April, 1863), Gen. William L. Jackson, who accompanied Imboden, casually remarked while in Beverly that he was coming back there to spend the 4th of July. Of course, no one took the remark seriously. Although it was commonly repeated afterwards, as well to the Federal commander as others, it passed unheeded. Sure enough, on the third day of July, a Confederate force unexpectedly appeared south of and in the vicinity of Beverly, under the command of Gen. William L. Jackson, who dispatched a detachment under Maj. J. B. Ledy on the road leading northward, west of the river to its intersection with the road leading to Buckhannon, in order to cut off retreat in that direction. He having previously dispatched another detachment under the command of Col. A. C. Dunn, by a country road, eastward of the main road, with orders to occupy the road leading to Philippi, northward of Beverly, thus cutting off retreat in that direction. He planted his artillery on the slope of the hill, about one and one-half miles southwest of Beverly, and opened fire on the Federals, who were hurriedly gathered within their fortification. The Confederate guns were of small caliber, and, owing to inferior ammunition, most of the shells fell short, landing in Beverly.

Col. Thomas M. Harris, of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, and who at a later period attained unenviable notoriety, as a member of the military court that tried and convicted Mrs. Surratt and sent her to the scaffold, was in command of the Federals. Guards were stationed on all the roads leading from Beverly; and no one--man, woman, or child--was permitted to pass these guards; hence all civilians were confined to the limits of the town and were thereby subjected to the fire of the Confederate artillery. Although this firing continued for a considerable part of two days, no citizens were injured, and but few houses were struck by shells.

It has always been the understanding, which is probably correct, that the detachment Jackson sent to approach Beverly from the north and open the attack, had in the course of their march found a supply of apple brandy; and the detachment became so intoxicated, that they lost sight of and interest in the undertaking. Jackson waited impatiently throughout the first day for the officer in command of this detachment to make the attack, as pre-arranged; the second day he was still expecting it every moment, but received no intelligence. Along toward noon there appeared, advancing up the valley, west of the river, an army of mounted men, ordered to sweep everything before them. It was Averill's full strength of Federal cavalry. It was a formidable force. There was but one thing left for Jackson to do--get out as rapidly as possible or be overwhelmed. This he proceeded to do, and accomplished with such skill that he escaped with but slight loss.

Gen. Jackson, while on the bench prior to the war, and while a term of court in Beverly, knew many of the

citizens, and was familiar with the country in the vicinity. Immediately following the fight, and while Averill was still in pursuit of Jackson, Colonel Harris dispatched guards through the country north of Beverly, who arrested quite a large number of citizens, all of whom were peaceable, law-abiding men--good citizens. They were marched into Beverly and formed in line near the old courthouse. Colonel Harris then walked along the front of the line and put this question to each one separately: "Are you a Union man?" When the answer was directly in the affirmative, the man was passed. When the answer was, "My sentiments are with the South," or its equivalent, Harris ordered the person giving such answer to take two steps forward. Several of those in line, in reply to the question, stated that they were "Constitutional Union men"; of these latter were Lennox Camden, a brother of Judge G. D. Camden, and Charles W. Russell, the latter, a late leading merchant and well known throughout the county, and who was a Union man. This answer evidently, in the opinion of Harris, did not constitute sufficient loyalty, for in each instance where this answer was given, such person was ordered to take the two steps to the front. When Harris had finished his questioning, there were thirteen in the advanced line. The number in this instance in the course of time proved to be a frightful exemplification of all that has ever been attributed to it in the way of being an omen of disaster by those given to superstition. The thirteen were immediately sent under guard to the Federal prison at Fort Delaware. The names of those sent were Lennox Camden, Charles W. Russell, Thomas J. Caplinger, John J. Crouch, George C. Crouch, Jr., Smith Crouch, John Crouch, Philip Crouch, Rich Chenoweth, William Clem, John



Leary, and Allen Isner.

The public at the time attributed these arrests to Harris's intense hatred of Southern sympathizers and his chagrin and anger at Jackson's having reached the immediate vicinity of Beverly without his knowledge, and especially as Jackson had made announcement of his intended coming several months in advance; all of which Harris realized constituted a severe reflection upon the commander of the post in not having been more alert, and in allowing himself to be thus surprised; and which, but for the miscarriage of Jackson's orders to Colonel Dunn, would have resulted in the probable capture of himself and his entire command; and also, the further fact that Jackson had succeeded in withdrawing his troops and escaping without material loss, all of which was intensified by the rebuke and criticism administered by General Averill, his superior officer. Averill, being a West Point graduate, had no special admiration for civilian army officers like Harris.

There is little doubt that Harris was smarting under Averill's criticisms, and especially as Averill attributed his own failure to defeat, if not to capture, Jackson's command to Harris's failure to notify him (Averill) in time. Averill, in his official report, says: "Had Colonel Harris furnished me with timely warning of the approach of the enemy, I should have killed, captured, or dispersed his entire command. As it was, he received but a slight repulse."

Later, on several occasions, most strenuous efforts were made to obtain the release of these men from Fort Delaware, where they were being held as sheep. The public generally knew they were

innocent of any charge; a number of them were influential men; but all efforts were without avail until virtually half of them had died in prison. When finally the survivors, seven in number, were released, one of them, Lennox Camden, died before reaching home. Another, Philip Isner, died a few days after reaching home. Smith Crouch and John Crouch died very soon afterwards. The three survivors, Charles W. Russell, Thomas B. Caplinger, and George Caplinger, were so broken in health as to suffer from the effects of their incarceration and treatment to the day of their demise.

Harris had, prior to the war, been a country doctor, practiced in Ritchie County (now West Virginia) and later, located in Glenville in the same State. After he became identified with the Union cause, he became intensely partisan. In those days intense partisanship was the stepping-stone, for many, to promotion. Harris had risen to the rank of colonel of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, as stated. This regiment contained many good men, and many who detested Harris. His unpopularity was such that while stationed at Beverly, he was shot at one night by some of his regiment, one bullet passing through his whiskers. Of this I was informed by one of his commissioned officers. Elevated to the rank of general, Harris seemed to have become obsessed with an exalted sense of the prominence that such an appointment carried with it. He was stationed at Beverly, a long time. Having the power of a general, he was much dreaded, especially as he seemed ever ready to send a calling card to the unreliable and disreputable who approached him as a neighbor, and which resulted generally in the worst and most out of those so reported. It would be difficult for me to recall to memory, and I presume it is equally

time of others, the number of citizens of the county, or their names, who were, during the war, arrested and sent under guard to the military prisons of the North, many of them by Harris--generally without cause and without any specific charge being made known to them, and many of whom did not live to return to their homes.

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Topic:

*History* W. Va.

Title:

*Battle of Droop Mt*

Author:

Status:

*Complete* Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: *600* Words

Contents:

Editor:

*Detailed history of the Battle of Droop Mt. Gives events and dates preceding battle; full description of battle with map of battlefield.*

Source:

*Source given*

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: \_\_\_\_\_

NOVEMBER 6, 1863

BY CAPT. E. R. HOWERY

## EVENTS AND DATES PRECEEDING BATTLE

Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Va.  
Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, W. Va.  
Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain

Number of troops engaged (Union)----4700

Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950

Number killed (Union)-----130

Number killed (Confederate)----- 400

Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 8th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Powell, U.S. Army, and Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Zenois, C.S. Army.

One of the reasons for the retention of these two forts in the "Lost Virginia" of this time was; The "Lost" State of Virginia was ruled by people who were in favor of the State, in Jan. 27th, 1863 the State of Virginia was re-established by the Confederate States of America. West Va. 1863.

in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be driven out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 20th, Gen. Benjamin Kelly, U.S. Army ordered General Averell who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contracted guerrilla bands and all detachments of

Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, W. Va., about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keoper's battery was placed on the hill above Boards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. L. Eivon's battery was placed to the left of the turn pike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 6th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turn pike out of sight about two miles from the base of Draper Mountain.

The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent marching detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacob road and take the





ber 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederate back toward Lewisburg. Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion—cavalry and infantry all mixed up together. Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederate and it was through his brave defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment.

Co. 2598, CCC, invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun implements, and other interesting things.

Topic: History

E. Va.

Title: Long Mountain BattlefieldAuthor: W. F. Yeager

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: 750

words

Status: Complete

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contents: Complete statement on Long Mountain Battlefield. Gives location and brief history of battle, and stories concerning it.Source: Personal given

Consultant: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: \_\_\_\_\_

Rella F. Yeager

*Rella F. Yeager* 6

*Greenbrier Mountains  
Battlefield Park Commission*

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD

One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain, Pocahontas County, on November 6th, 1863, in which West Virginia Soldiers, both Confederate and Union participated.

Droop Mountain is a very high elevation--3000 ft--overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County and the far off peaks of the Allegheny Mountains making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia.

Each Army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. The bitter struggle ended and the animosity engendered by that conflict has passed away and universal peace reigns.

The scene spread out before us was one of indescribable beauty and enchantment. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile plains, the famous historic Greenbrier River flowing at the base of the rugged mountain --nowhere in all our travels we witnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a State Park.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in Greenbrier Valley which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate

forces, General Averill was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia to Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County, and ~~xxx~~ it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought between the forces commanded by General Averill and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson. Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, the County seat, seven miles from Mill Point and four from Hillsboro. It is ten miles from Renick Station, sixteen from Frankford and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg.

The forces engaged in the battle of Droop Mountain were composed of twelve Confederate Units, regiments, battalion and independent companies while the Union forces were composed of nine Unites, regiments and battalions. There was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies. The 10th West Virginia Infantry and the 23rd Ohio that composed the flanking party and did the principal fighting was officially reported as 1175 while the 22nd Virginia Infantry Confederate was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Capt. Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Capt Derringes Battalion 500 and Major Keller battalion and other units composed a fine fighting force.

Another phase of the history of Droop Mountain is of special interest. No reason from analogy and from pre-historic evidence that Droop Mountain has been a battle-field since the first time reached by the early Indian tribes

of America. Many wonderful stories are handed down through journals and family records of the Shawnees who were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the country west of the Allegheny. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the six nations and existed in various branches. We find excavations at the foot of Droop Mountain where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

At one time this has been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest. Many legends are told by people who lived on Droop Mountain and handed down for younger generations.

A young Union Officer who rode a beautiful sorrel horse was killed while riding fast around a large tree. The frightened riderless horse ran around the tree several times before it was stopped. It was said by people of that battle they could hear the rapid running of that frightened horse around that tree. *on The Anniversary of that Battle.* A most pathetic scene occurred at that battle. After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded. Among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F. West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night and Short discovered a dead soldier and took hold of his body to remove him to the place they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a cracked finger on the dead soldiers hand and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother. He called for some one to bring a light, saying that he found his brother,



and when they got the light he found for a certainty that the man really was his own brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newton many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew this to be the lifeless body of his brother. This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever to our knowledge been recorded in the annals of warfare.

Reda H. E. E. E.

S. Dilley  
Cheat Mountain

undertaken to guide them, would be hanged. But Lee must have learned that he had been at fault for ordering them to penetrate the Cheat thicket in the night for nobody was executed. (I have not been able to learn who the guide was). This material was taken from W. Va. Blue Book 1928 - from articles by Andrew Price.

When the spruce timber was cut from Cheat Mountain many years after the war, musket haversacks, and other articles were found where the army had cast them aside in their escape from the jungle.

In 1927 when the new highway over Middle and Valley Mountains (Seneca Trail) was being graded as Route 24, a great army dump pile was uncovered and all sorts of war trophies ranging from muskets to parts of cannons were found. These were left by Lee's first command in the Civil War.

Places in Pocahontas that were Lee's headquarters in 1861:

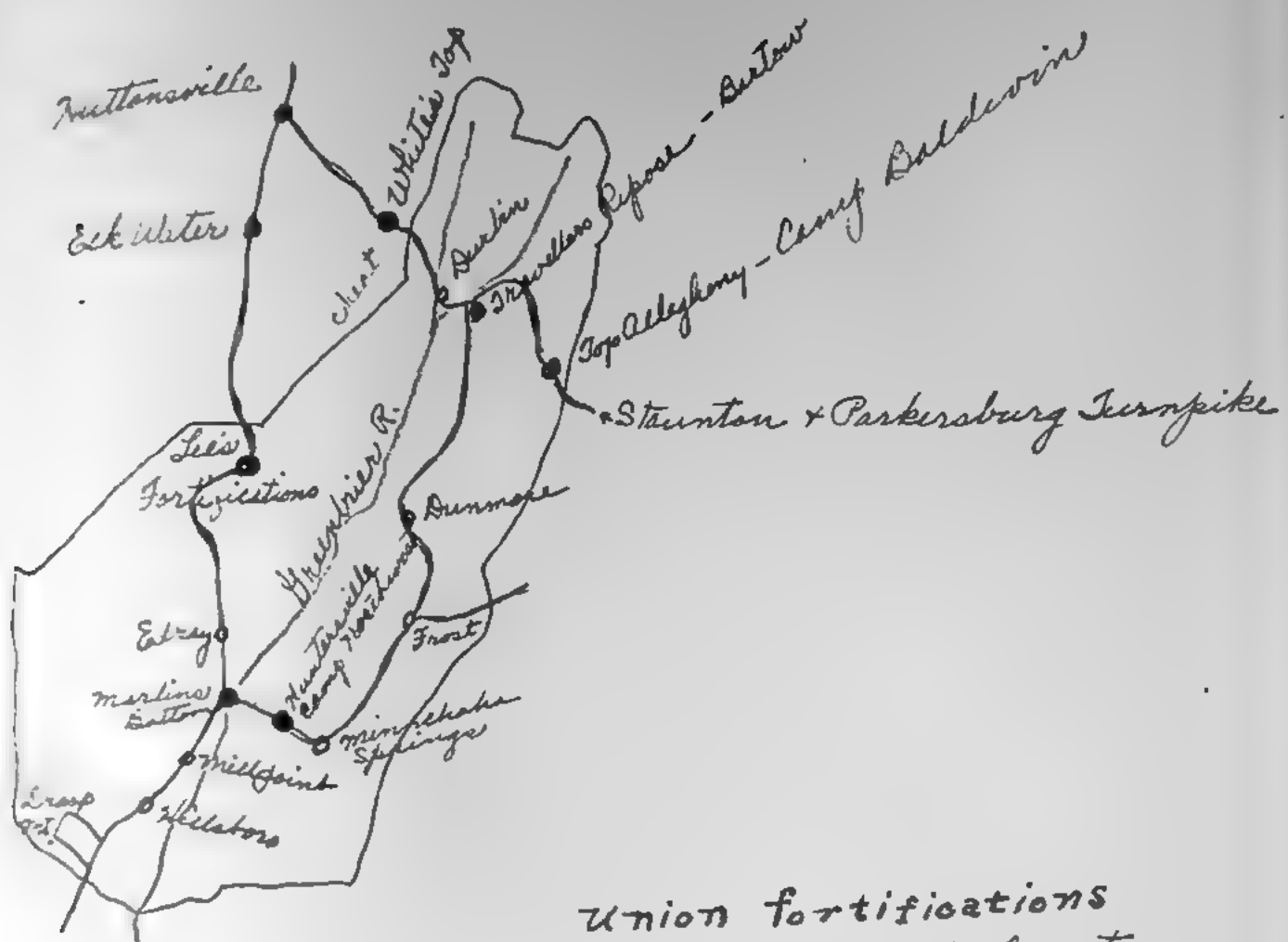
1. Valley and Middle Mountains
2. Meadow Bluff on Sept. 24.
3. Tall House at Marlins Bottom
4. At Sewell Mountain on Oct. 20.

During the year 1861 all of Lee's activities were confined to W. Va. At Richard McNeel's farm near Mill Point, Mrs. McNeel, a Confederate sympathizer; prepared a fine meal but Lee refused to eat it for fear of poison.

Lee's Horse

When Lee was in the Greenbrier Valley, in 1861, he came across the best horse he had ever seen, the grey gelding, Traveler. Foaled in the Little Levels of Pocahontas and developed in the Big Levels of Greenbrier Co. No better horse ever set foot to the west, though this region has produced its thousands like unto the far famed Traveler. (Mountain Times).

Guaranteed S. S. S. S. S.  
 Clover Tick, W. Va.  
 Feb. 24, 1940



Union fortifications  
 in Randolph County  
 at  
 Muttonsville  
 Elk Water  
 Whites Top Shavers Chest

Confederate fortifications  
 in Pocahontas County  
 Travelers Rest - Camp Bucklin  
 Top Allegheny - Camp Balderson  
 Runmore - Camp Northcutt  
 Martinsburg -  
 Valley & Middle Mountain.



- Confederate Fortifications
- Federal Fortifications

MEMBERS

Andrew Canless	-----10th West Virginia Infantry
Nelson Canless	-----" " " "
Agnesius Buzzard	-----" " " "
Joseph Moore	-----" " " "
David Moore	-----" " " "
Andrew Adkinson	-----" " " "
William McCarty	-----Died 1861
George Wagner	-----" " " "
James Miller	-----" " " "
David Grimes	-----Died Buchannon
James Johnson	-----" " " "
John C. Curry	-----
Thomas Akers	
William Cutlip	
Jeremiah Sharp	Died in service
Andrew Kellison	
James Kee	Died at Winchester Virginia
William Duncan	
Wilton Sharp	
Brown Arbogast	
George Arbogast	Died in service
John Canless	
Charles Arbogast	Died in service
William Kennison	
W. Clark Grimes	
Abram Sharp	
Peter Beverage	
William Duffield	- Died during war
Clark Kellison	- Served under Sheridan, was also detached service on the western plains after the war. He received his discharge just in time to escape the Custer massacre
William Gay	- Escaped from the army below Richmond with 6 others made his way home to Stony Creel
Miller Wives Moore	- Died at Wheeling during the war
William Hudson	Went to Mo.
David Hudson	After the war
Edward Sharp	- Shot through hips. Died at Duncan's Lane
Harry Sharp	- Wounded near William Gibsons on Elk. Died
John Sharp	- Shot by a scouting party near his home.
William Rogers	
John Phillips	- 6th West Virginian killed at Bulltown in Braxton Co.
John Grimes	
John Canless	- 6th West Virginia Infantry
John Arbogast	" " " "
William Alderman	" " " "
Alfred W. Weaver	
John Grimes	
George Duffield	
Alvin Kelly	

George W. McCarthy  
James Day  
Wilson Hannah  
Wilson Fucher  
George Moore  
John Tyler  
James Duncan  
Washington Moore  
George Mellison  
John Silva  
Register Moore  
Francis Byrd  
James Pyles  
Ed Bowers

Taken from History of Poca W. T. Price  
" " List in Poca. Times  
" " By Peter McCarthy  
" " A Scout in Youngs Co.  
" " West Virginia Blue Book - 1928

I had already sent in  
C1 3rd West Virginia Cavalry  
Captain Young's Co. of Scouts  
Captain Allen's Co. of Scouts

Two of the sons of Thomas Drinnon were Cavalrymen, and took part in the battle of Droop Mountain but I have not been able to get their name.





Inventory of Materials

Pocahontas

Topic: Pocahontas

Point of view W. Va.

Title:

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Contents:

Historic battlefield converted into  
State Park.

A vivid description of Great War  
Battle from pen of Andrew Pine

Source:

Consultant:

Reliability:

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folders: \_\_\_\_\_



Sunday they started from Beverly and came over Cheat Mountain by way of Cheat Bridge, and marched by Camp Bartow, where they left the Staunton and Parkersburg turnpike and took the road leading by Greenbank to Huntersville. Outside of some apprehension from brushhackers, they saw no sign of the rebel army until they got to Greenbank and from there one they drove the pickets before them.

They reached Huntersville on Wednesday at noon and there Averall heard that Col. W. P. Thompson with the 19th Virginia cavalry, was at Marlins Bottom, at the Greenbrier bridge. Huntersville was the county seat, and while the pike between the Levels and the county seat ran by Marlins Bottom where the river was bridged, all persons attending court on horseback from the Levels, when the river could be forded turned to left at Stephen Hole Run and rode by the Beaver Creek route. They saved by this about six miles—the distance from Marlins Bottom to Huntersville. Marlins Bottom is now called Marlinton. So on Wednesday there was a horse race. Averall sent the 14th Pennsylvania cavalry and the 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry down Beaver Creek to cut off Thompson at Stephen Hole Run, and sent the 2nd and 5th West Virginia mounted infantry to Marlinton with Ewing's battery but Thompson left in a hurry and cut a barricade of logs across the road on Price Hill, and beat the Federals to Stephen Hole Run, and joined up with the Confederate troops in the Levels and were turned and stopped the same place. Averall, at Huntersville, and went in the night time from there to Marlinton and Stephen Hole Run, that Thompson had escaped the trap.

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I have given the position of the Federal troops, occupying a full half circle to the north of the battlefield. Here is the way the Confederates were stationed:

On the river road to Greenbrier; Edgar's battalion. On the farm-land on the brow of the mountain where the battle was fought: 22nd Virginia cavalry, Col. George Patton; 19th Virginia cavalry, Col. W. P. Thompson; 20th Virginia Cavalry, Col. W. W. Arnett; 14th Virginia cavalry, Col. James Cochran; Derrick's battalion; Jackson's batteries. On the Lobelia-Jacob road: Nobody. The failure to guard the road leading in from the rear cost the Confederates the battle. This oversight has never been explained.

As soon as Averell heard his flanking party commence to fire he moved the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th regiments obliquely to the right up the mountain. The horses had been left at the foot of the mountain. They came out on top of the mountain exactly on the left of the flanking army and together, they advanced on the breastworks of the Confederates and the fight was over in a few minutes, and the army in full retreat. Averell sent Gibson's battalion after them up the pike, together with one section of Ewing's battery. But parts of all the regiments joined in the pursuit, and Averell was able to halt his command on the top of Spring Creek Mountain, overlooking the Big Levels of Greenbrier. This was the evening after the battle, Friday, November 6, 1863.

He tried to hold back the pursuit so that Duffie might cut them off at Lewisburg, but that was not to be. They got through Lewisburg and on towards Union on the way to Dublin, by a matter of minutes, and were able to cut a further blockade in the

The Confederates never had any success in West Virginia after the battle of Deep Mountain. It was a bitter fight from that time on. He had given Averell a defeat at White Sulphur Springs the summer of 1862 but with that exception Averell never lost a battle. He was allowed to continue in command until the 23rd day of March 1862 with the trust and confidence that was never withdrawn from him in a campaign when

For no reason, so far as history can discover, he was summarily dismissed from his command. He openly charged that it was to make room for some favorite in the make-up of the army.

His last official communication to his command closed with these words: "I would rather serve in your ranks than leave you, but I am only permitted to say farewell."

During his command with the Confederate rangers lasting from May 16, 1863, to September 23, 1864, he fought twenty battles.

That is the outline of the Battle of Droop Mountain. We most earnestly insist that if this sketch is in any wise in error that the historian or veteran will immediately write to us and we will argue it out.

Here is the panorama that would have been presented to an observer standing on the brow of the mountain on the battlefield just before the battle began: To the east, 14th Pennsylvania regiment; to the northeast, Keoper's battery; to the north, Ewing's battery; the 60th West Virginia, and Gibson's battalion; to the northwest, behind the timber and in the folds and hollows of the land, the 3d, 5th and 8th West Virginia regiments, lying on their arms, and a young man holding horses, waiting for the sound of battle; to the west, the 25th Ohio and the company of cavalry were upon the rear. All the Lovell's homes were occupied that day by the women and children. Nearly all the non-combatant men were hid in the woods.

By George Thompson  
Eda F. Ferguson

This was a decisive battle in that it  
expelled the Confederates from that  
section of N. Va. and from there on  
to the end of the war.

Illustrations  
Familiar Scenes and Places  
of American History by  
Colonel William S. Maldron  
U S Army.

219  
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16  
WONDERFUL SCENIC VIEWS AND FLASHES  
OF AMERICAN HISTORY

By Colonel William S. Waldron,  
U. S. Army

BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN *Drop*

One day as you go bowling along over the Seneca Trail (Route 219) enjoying the scenic beauties of West Virginia you will come to a roadside marker, about thirty miles north of Lewisburg, which informs you that you are nearing "Droop Mountain Battlefield." A little further on you will see the massive rustic portals, constructed by the State Conservation Commission and the CCC boys, which mark the entrance to this historic spot-- a place where brothers crossed swords in mighty conflict for a cause in which each one of them believed.

Now, if you read on, it looks like you are in for a brief history lesson--a thing which you dread, but which will stand you in good stead when you visit this hallowed ground, direct your mind back over a space of 73 years and try to visualize what happened here.

The year 1863 was an important milestone in the history of West Virginia. It was on June 20th of that year that our fathers came to separate from the Old Dominion and become a member of the family of states in their own right.

The Confederate Forces

At that time there was a Confederate force composed largely of West Virginia cavalry and some artillery, and numbering about 4,000 men, under the command of General John Echols, which was based on Charleston and extended far up the Greenbrier Valley toward Durbin.

They formed a sort of outpost designed to protect Virginia from a Federal attack from the west. They lived on the country and found good pickings for man and beast from the rich bluegrass region.

A small Federal force under command of General William W. Averell and based on Elkins opposed the Confederates. Their mission was to protect the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, the main Federal line of rail communication from east to west. They were not of sufficient strength to undertake offensive operations against the Confederates and had to content themselves to play the role of an observation force.

On the Kanawha River at the mouth of Gauley there was another small force of Federals under the command of General A. N. Duffie, with the mission of preventing a Confederate movement down the Kanawha towards the Ohio River.

Following General Lee's 1863 invasion of the north, which ended in disaster at Gettysburg, Averell's command was reinforced and he was ordered to drive the Confederates out of the Greenbrier Valley. These reinforcements brought his strength up to about 10,000 men, which gave him a small superiority in numbers. General Averell requisitioned horses from the nearby farms in the Tygart Valley country and mounted much of his infantry, thus making his command almost of equal mobility with that of his opponents.

### Preliminary Operations

General Averell ordered General Duffie to march from Gauley to the Kanawha River to arrive there on the afternoon of October 1. With his own command he marched south, leaving Beverly to guard the Kanawha River and the Confederate railroad that

occupied the northern reaches of the valley. When he learned that Averell was marching down the valley, General Echols proceeded to Droop Mountain with his main body, while he took up a defensive position with the idea of providing a rallying point for his advanced troops which were being driven back by the Federals, there to make a stand and stop the further advance of Averell. A line of breastworks and gun positions was constructed across the main road, which we now know as the "Seneca Trail" (Route 219) where it crosses the mountain.

Apparently General Echols had learned of the approach of General Duffie's force coming east from Gauley Bridge but left no considerable force at Lewisburg to oppose him. Averell's main body arrived in the vicinity of Hillsboro on the evening of November 4th. They established their outposts close to the foot of Droop Mountain and started immediately with the reconnaissance of the Confederate position. The entire day of November 5 was consumed in this reconnaissance, which developed the fact that the position was too strong to be taken to direct assault. There was a lot of skirmishing during the day and that evening General Averell decided upon his plan of battle. In the meantime General Duffie was approaching Lewisburg from the west.

### The Battle

Early on the morning of November 6, 1865, General Averell dispatched a force of about 1100 men composed of the 18th Ohio Infantry and the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry to march west and south on the Loeblia road, a detour of six miles, to attack the left flank and rear of the Confederate position on Droop Mountain. He



also sent a small detachment out to the east to demonstrate against the right flank of the Confederate position,

General Echols was content to defend his strong position on the mountain and apparently had no information that a federal force was approaching on his left flank.

At 1:45 p m, just when the skirmishing along the front was at its height, the Federal right flanking detachment broke in on the left flank and rear of the Confederate position, Averell pushed forward his assault up the mountain on the front and the left flanking detachment closed in. Echols threw in part of his reserves to stem the tide and for a short period of time there was some desperate fighting on top of the mountain. Seeing that the Federal right flank force was closing in on his rear in an endeavor to gain the road to Lewisburg, Echols sent in the last of his reserves and all of the troops he could withdraw from the main position to counter this move. He succeeded in doing so and managed to withdraw his whole command and get it on the road to Lewisburg. By four o'clock in the afternoon his troops were on the road in more or less orderly formation and covered by an organized rear guard which covered the retreat. His rear guard passed through Lewisburg at about ten o'clock on the forenoon of November 7, just as Duffie's advance force reached the western entrance of the town.

Averell did not push the pursuit too vigorously because he thought that Duffie would be able to cut off the Confederates at the mouth of the river. But by marching all night and the fact that his mounts were tired and fresh, Echols was able to save practically his whole command to fight another day. The Confederates continued their retreat on down through Union and crossed over into Virginia

## Decisive Battle

The Battle of Droop Mountain was a decisive battle in that it expelled the Confederates from that section of West Virginia and from then on to the end of the war between the states, West Virginia was Federal territory.

In his report of the battle, General Echols states: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery which broke down completely during the retreat and had to be left, thus offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can "boast." This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, and although diligent search has been made it has not yet been found. It is hoped that it will be located in due time.

In the course of the conflict, Colonel James Cochran, commander of the 14th Virginia cavalry, was surrounded by a squad of Union soldiers and apparently doomed to capture. By some means, however, he managed to escape. Later in relating the story, he was asked why, under the circumstances, he did not surrender, Colonel Cochran replied: "If they had said 'Colonel, surrender' I would have done so. But they said, 'stop, you blankety-blank son of a gun,' and I would not accommodate any man who used such language to me."

The Federal troops engaged numbered 4,700 and suffered a loss of 110 men. The Confederates had 3950 engaged and their losses were about 400 men.

# MISCELLANEOUS

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# The Peoples Store & Supply Co

Marlinton, West Virginia

## POCAHONTAS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The hospital was a busy place a little while Monday morning about 11 o'clock, when the train brot to us five injured men. the result of two railroad speeders. loaded with workmen, running together. Luckily none of the five men were seriously injured, after being cleaned up by Drs. J. W. Price and Yeager and their slight cuts and bruised dressed, all were sent to their homes but two. Charley Adams of Stony Bottom stayed in until 6 p m and E N Carr of Clawson remained over night for observation, he was struck on the head and received slight injuries to left arm and right leg

Mrs. Gertrude Overholt Trent a popular young matron of Marlinton, was the happy recipient of a pair of twins. a boy and girl, who arrived early Monday a. m. The mother and babes are doing well Many congratulations were received over the phone during the day from interested friends

Hubert May of Beard who was operated on for appendicitis is recovering nicely and will be able to leave the hospital by the end of the week

Mrs. Russell Hannah continues to improve and will soon be able to sit up in chair

Mrs. Wheeler Simmons of Alderson was a visitor at the hospital to see her husband who is a patient here, being treated by Dr J. M. Yeager

Mrs. Fred Hefner of Buckeye was admitted to hospital Monday for slight operation, which she underwent Wednesday a m. Patient is resting comfortably

Mrs. Maude Johnson, an aged woman, seen in this hospital

Improved.

Miss Flora McLaughlin nurse, is taking a two week vacation with her parents at Springs.

Miss Lena Gum student spent her vacation at Ray and returned to her work Monday

Mrs. Lenna Wickline of was in the hospital for treatment, returned to improved in health

Married. June 20, 1928. Copenhaver and Miss B. both of Little Levels dist Presbyterian Manse by Bowen They will make on Droop Mountain.

1903



Household Remedies, Preparations, and Extracts have stood for 25 years (a quarter century)

Mrs. J. H. Flenner, Green District; J. A. Reed, Hunters District; Howard McElwee, Edict; J. M. Workman, Little District and Harold L. Moore, Willhude, and D. C. Adkisson.

cancies on the committee d: Huntersville District, J. Wade and Mrs. Alice ny District, W. H. Gilmore Dieta Gay; Little Levels J. B. Grimes.

committee is now com- H. Hiner, Geo. S. Gra- H. Flenner, Mrs. H. H. o. F. Alderman J. A. G. O. Wade, Mrs. Alice McElwee, W. H. Gil- Dieta Gay, Mrs. Eva Nel- Workman, O. M. Hook, Ilmore, and Mrs. J. B.

ing nominations were Committee, Prosecuting Buckley; County Sur- Irvine; Greenbank Dis- Board of Education, Vidney, Justice of the Blackhurst. Hunters-

For Justice of the McCarty. and John stable, Mitchell Sharp McComb. Edray Dis- ber Board of Educa- re, for Constable, N. E. Wooddell.

For Member Board H. Waugh; for jus- re, C. W. Kennison icks; for Constable, d Chas. Hogsett.

## ART NEW SANITARIUM

where of the state United Buckley re- and the site of the nation on Gray ly. The first unit was definitely in construction

## STATE PARK

### TO BE DEDICATED ON JULY 4TH

The Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park will be dedicated on Wednesday, July 4th. Hon John D Sutton, chairman of the Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission, will present the Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park to Governor Howard M. Gore, who will accept it for the people of the State of West Virginia. This is a State and County affair. In no sense is it to be commercialized. Every man, woman and child in Pocahontas County should be present.

The battle of Droop Mountain was the greatest battle fought on West Virginia soil during the War between the States. It was a battle in which West Virginia soldiers were engaged on both sides. This battle marked the ascendancy of the Union forces in West Virginia.

At the last session of the Legislature Hon John D. Sutton, of Braxton County, introduced a resolution in the Legislature for a Commission to be appointed by the Governor to secure the site of the battlefield of Droop Mountain for a State Park as an everlasting memorial, and to mark the positions as far as possible of the various army units which took part in the battle.

The Governor appointed Mr. Sutton the chairman of this Commission. As a boy Mr. Sutton fought in this battle as a Union soldier. The other

DI

W R Moore, of died quite sudden of June 9, 1928. late A. T. and M Edray. He was He left Pocahontas forty years ago. in Indiana, Iowa, gon California and but for the past 1 resided in Rutte, a native of Ducate the autumn of 192 family, two rem Washington, D. C Barlow, of Huntin sister, Mrs Isaac twin sister. Mrs J ceded him to the jovial, kind heart enjoyed seeing oth last years he beca and in his letters tives often referre the grave.

M S. Wood die his home in the on Monday, June recently passed the versary of his birth a native of Clay co this county many was a Miss More year or more ago.

Washington; Walden R Coffe street, Niagara



ture Hon. John D. Sutton, of Braxton County, introduced a resolution in the Legislature for a Commission to be appointed by the Governor to secure the site of the battlefield of Droop Mountain for a State Park as an everlasting memorial, and to mark the positions as far as possible of the various army units which took part in the battle.

The Governor appointed Mr. Sutton the chairman of this Commission. As a boy Mr. Sutton fought in this battle as a Union soldier. The other members of the Commission are Senators R. F. Kidd and A. L. Helmick; Delegates Norman F. Kendall and M. M. Harrison.

This Commission has done a great constructive work. They have purchased the battlefield of more than one hundred acres, and they have marked the positions and movements of the various units engaged. Particularly active has Mr. Sutton been in the matter, spending much time on the field; consulting with old soldiers of both armies, and in searching the records and reports of the commanding officers of both the Confederate and Union forces.

The Fourth of July has been set as the time for the Battlefield to be formally taken over by the State as a memorial for all time of the men who fought, bled and died for what they believed to be right.

Aside from its historic interest, the Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park is one of the beauty spots of the country. A level plateau overlooking the Little Levels a thousand

the grave.

Mr. S. Wood his home in the on Monday. He recently passed the anniversary of his a native of Cl. this county was a Miss year or more

Washington Walden B street, Niagara New York qualify for a States Milit Point, the w ed today. O pany L 17 passed both entrance exam the academy

Mr. Coffey amination Point milita ed in the above dispat the unofficial Gazette

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Judge Sha were at the held State Pe it over in pro

tal is a thousand feet higher.

The Battlfield is on the Seneca Trail, and can be reached from all parts of Pocahontas County on improved highways

As said above, this is a State and County affair and in no sense a commercial undertaking. Come and bring your dinner and something extra for the strangers who will be with us that day.

In preparation for the day the County Committee has made the following appointment of committees to have all things in readiness:

Committee on Provisions—Mrs. U. H. Hannah, Mrs. S. A. Willhide, B. B. Beard, Mrs. Harry M. Moore, Mrs. Sherman Gibson, Mrs. Hevener Dilley, H. Lee White, Ira D. Brill, Mrs. Ida McComb, Mrs. A. R. Gay, Mrs. J. A. Sydenstricker, Mrs. J. G. Hamrick, Mrs. Dakota Kirk Nottingham, Mrs. J. J. Coyner, Mrs. John John Dunlap, L. D. Sharp.

Committee on Cleaning up Ground—J. K. Marshall, Chairman, Dr. H. W. McNeel, George P. Edgar, Pler-son Hendrick, Wallace Kershner, L. W. McCoy, Fred Dean, T. A. Bruffey, N. E. Walton, Russell Scott.

Committee on Program—J. W. Goodsell, R. S. Hickman, J. F. Ashford, Mrs. John Pritchard, John W. Tyler, G. M. Sharp, Col. H. R. Willey, W. H. Gross, Dr. J. M. Cofer, M. J. McNeel.

Committee on Order—W. H. Har-

Fourth, when the Park from relative Comm an ideal place gathering. So be done, but to by the peop

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## STATE PARK DEDICATED

### BIG CROWD CELEBRATES THE FOURTH ON DROOP

On last Wednesday July 4. the Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park was dedicated in due form Governor Howard M. Gore received it for the people of the State of West Virginia from Hon John D Sutton. chairman of the legislative commission. This commission was appointed at the last session of the Legislature to buy the battle site for a State Park. as a memorial for all time of the men who fought in the greatest battle of the Civil War on West Virginia soil.

The crowd is estimated at ten thousand people. While the greater number of those present were from Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties there were many people from other West Virginia counties and the adjoining State of Virginia. It was one of the largest crowds to assemble in Pocahontas county. It perhaps equaled the number of men engaged in the Battle of Droop Mountain.

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engaged in the Battle of Droop Moun-  
tain.

The speakers were Hon. John D.  
Sutton, chairman of the Legislative  
Commission which bought and mark-  
ed the battlefield; Judge George W.  
McClintic, Judge of the United  
States Court for the Southern Dis-  
trict of West Virginia, and a native  
of Pocahontas county; Governor How-  
ard M. Gore, Governor of West Vir-  
gini; Hon. E. T. England, Congress-  
man from this the Sixth District;  
Hon. J. Alfred Taylor, former con-  
gressman and nominee of his party  
for Governor of West Virginia. An-  
drew Price, President of the West  
Virginia Historical Society, was the  
presiding officer of the day.

Among the veterans present were  
M. J. McNeel, N. D. McCoy, R. F.  
Diehl, of the Confederate arm; J.  
W. Tyler, J. D. Sutton and Peter  
McCarthy of the Union army.

There were more than a thousand  
automobiles in the Park Wednesday.  
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McClintic, Judge of the United States Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, and a native of Pocahontas county; Governor Howard M. Gore, Governor of West Virginia; Hon. E. T. England, Congressman from this the Sixth District; Hon. J. Alfred Taylor, former congressman and nominee of his party for Governor of West Virginia. Andrew Price, President of the West Virginia Historical Society, was the presiding officer of the day.

Among the veterans present were M. J. McNeel, N. D. McCoy, R. F. Diehl, of the Confederate army; J. W. Tyler, J. D. Sutton and Peter McCarty of the Union army.

There were more than a thousand automobiles in the Park Wednesday. The traffic was handled and the cars parked with military precision by members of Marlinton Post of the American Legion. State Trooper Jack Tidd had the assistance of a squad in handling things.

So great was the crowd that only a few thousand people could get within hearing of the speakers.

The Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park is one of the loveliest spots

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great historical interest. It overhangs the beautiful Little Levels region of Pocahontas county, and to the east are the forest clad ranges paralleling the main Alleghenies, with the waters of the Greenbrier showing in a few places; to the west and a thousand feet higher are the rich Back Allegheny Mountains. There are few views that surpass the outlook from Droop Mountain.

In the Park are a few fields, but the most of the area is woodland. Some of the undergrowth is being cut away, and soon it will be about the most pleasant spot in the whole Greenbrier Valley.

The positions of the various units of the opposing armies have been marked. Mr. Sutton is doing this work, has his own recollection of the battle to guide him; the recollection of other Union and Confederate Veterans, and the complete voluminous reports of more than twenty commanding officers of both armies.

The battle of Droop Mountain was the most



marked. Mr. Sutton is doing this work, has his own recollection of the battle to guide him; the recollection of other Union and Confederate Veterans, and the complete voluminous reports of more than twenty commanding officers of both armies.

The battle of Droop Mountain was the most important engagement in West Virginia in the war between the States. It marked the decline of Confederate strength in the mountains. The date of the battle was November 6, 1863. This was a battle between West Virginians. In some instances brother against brother in the opposing armies. In the Union army there was one regiment of Pennsylvania, the 14th and the 28th Ohio Infantry, but the brunt of the fighting was done by the 2nd, 3rd and 10th West Virginia Regiments. In the Confederate army were the 19th, 20th, 22nd and 14th Virginia regiments, which were all composed of West Virginians. The Confederate commanders were General W. L. Jackson and General Echols. The Union commander was General W.



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the Confederate army were the 19th, 20th, 22nd and 14th Virginia regiments, which were all composed of West Virginians. The Confederate commanders were General W. L. Jackson and General Echols. The Union commander was General W. W. Averell, a military genius of the Civil War, second to Stonewall Jackson.

The Confederates occupied the mountain, guarding the river road to Greenbrier county, but leaving the Caesar Mountain side unguarded. The Union Army was camped in the Levels. General Averell made a feint against the front of Droop Mountain, and he sent three or more regiments around the end of Caesar and attacked the unguarded flank of the Confederates. Here took place one of the hardest fights of the war. The Confederates broke and made their escape by the way of Lewisburg, passing through that town by a matter of minutes before General Duffie could cut them off with an army he was bringing up over the Midland Trail.

But to speak

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But to speak about the Fourth of July celebration on Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park last Wednesday, it was the biggest and most satisfactory picnic this writer has ever attended. The opportunity to meet and greet old friends and to meet and make new acquaintances was the best ever. Everyone brought a basket, and this region has the best cooks in the known world. The speakers were men who had proven themselves and earned positions of importance and honor in the state and the nation. They had messages to bring and they brought messages to their fellow citizens. The weather was perfect, and it was a day well



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